

AT THE PADDOCK

the evening moved into the stretch,
margaritas for her, beer for him.
bits of biography passed along the rail.
a breeder of horses was she.

"in fact, i've been looking at you
the way i look at them."
reaching for his equestriana,
he inquired about his lines.

"the ears should be close
to the head. eyes not too narrow.
must have a firm rump,
solid in the chest.
and then, of course, the stride."

"how'm i doing?"

"i think you'd make
a good walker."

ADVICE

a concordance could be compiled
of abused film dialog. example:
"did anyone ever tell you how
cute you are when you're mad?"

perhaps the oscar of the obvious
is the admonition, "be careful."
kitty says it to matt when he's headed
for the street against five old west
psychos packing shotguns and knives.

japanese wives tell it to their
kamikaze-pilot husbands. the words
were ringing in custer's ears
at little bighorn.

it even creeps into classics:
edie doyle to terry malloy
when he's about to stand up to
all the muscle On the Waterfront.

maybe it's the natural thing to say,
but how careless can a hero get?

it does leave us with a thought for
scriptwriters: be careful.